

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1190

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP
SUBJECT: SOCIAL DEMOCRATS: FISSION AND FUSION

REF: MADRID 0503

1. SUMMARY: IN THE ADVENT OF ELECTIONS THE FERMENT IN THE CENTER AND AMONG THE LEFT HAS BEGUN TO PRODUCE A RE-ARRANGEMENT ALONG THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, INCLUDING THE SMALL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GROUPS, LEADING TO FISSIONING AND FUSIONING AMONG THESE LAST AS WELL. END SUMMARY.

2. FRANCISCO FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ, THE ERSTWHILE LEADER OF THE FEDERACION SOCIAL DEMOCRATA (FSD) FINALLY FOUND THE LURE OF THE GRAND CENTER ALLIANCE IRRESISTABLE AND
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ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO JOIN THE CENTRO DEMOCRATICO. THE CENTRO (AND THE GOS FIGURES WHO BACK IT) BADLY WANTED FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ IN IT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE CENTER-RIGHT COALITION WITH A "LEFT WING." FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ HAD WANTED THE COMPANY OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC "TEAM" AND PARTICULARLY RUIZ GIMENEZ (REF)

BUT FINALLY, UNDER QUIET GOS PRESSURE, TOOK THE PLUNGE
DESPITE RUIZ GIMENEZ'S REFUSAL TO JOIN THE CENTRO.

3. IN SO DOING FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ SPLIT THE ALREADY SMALL
FSD, LOSING THE LABEL TO THE FACTION HEADED BY THE
STANFORD-TRAINED ECONOMIST JOSE RAMON LASUEN WHO
OPPOSED JOINING THE CENTER. FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ HAS
NOW CHRISTENED HIS GROUP THE PARTIDO SOCIAL DEMOCRATA
(PSD). SOME DIFFERENCES WITH THE CANANILLAS/AREILZA
PARTIDO POPULAR REMAIN TO BE IRONED OUT BUT THE DIE
IS CAST FOR THE PSD.

4. LASUEN AND FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ NEVER GOT ALONG. LA-
SUEN, WHO LUNCED WITH THE DCM AFTER THE SPLIT, DIS-
MISSED FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT HE
HAS FOUND HIS TRUE HOME ON THE CENTER-RIGHT. IN CON-
TRAST TO FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ, A DEMOCRAT BUT ALWAYS A
MAN OF THE ESTABLISHMENT, LASUEN IS THOUGHT OF AS A
MAVERICK. HE HAS NOW MOVED TO JOIN WITH THAT ELECT-
ORAL COALITION OF MAVERICKS, THE OUTSIDERS OF THE
ALIANZA SOCIALISTA DEMOCRATICA, COMPRISING THE PSOE
"HISTORICALS," THE RSE OF MANUEL CANTANERO, AND THE PSDE
OF GARCIA LOPEZ. (THAT LAST MINI-GROUP, RIVEN BY THE
PERSONALITY CONFLICTS THAT ALWAYS ATTEND GARCIA LOPEZ'
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, HAS SEEN DEFECTIONS AND A MODEST
SCANDAL ABOUT THE USE OF PARTY FUNDS).

5. LASUEN TOLD US HE AIMED AT A GENUINE CENTER LEFT, ONE
THAT WOULD TRADE UPON THE APPEAL OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
LABEL AND THE FEARS THAT THE CENTROL ON THE ONE HAND
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WAS TOO ASSOCIATED WITH FIGURES OF THE PAST, AND THE SOCIALISTS
ON THE OTHER WERE MARXIST AND TOO RADICAL. THE NEW
CENTER LEFT GROUP WOULD NOT SEEK FURTHER COALITION WITH
THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC "TEAM," PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE
OLDER PSOE HISTORICALS REMEMBERED THAT THE CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC PATRIARCH GIL ROBLES HAD DONE TO THE SOCIAL-
ISTS IN THE ROUND-UPS OF 1934. (THIS BIT OF NOSTALGIA
ASIDE, WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THE CD'S, WHO MAINTAIN
GOOD RELATIONS WITH FELIPE GONZALEZ, HAVE NO INTEREST
IN ALLYING WITH THE OUTSIDER'S COALITION.) LASUEN DID
ENVISAGE THIS CENTER LEFT AS OPEN TO BROADER ALLIANCES
IN THE SENATE, AND HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED SUAREZ'S RETENTION
IN THE PRIME MINISTRY.

6. LASUEN SAW THE PSOE AS THE ENEMY, CLAIMING FELIPE
GONZALEZ' PARTY IS TOO FAR GONE ON MARXISM TO BE ATTRAC-
TIVE TO THE MASS OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. HE CLAIMS THAT
WHILE IT IS NOW CLEAR THE PSOE WILL RUN ALONE IN THE

ELECTIONS, FOLLOWING THEM THE PSOE WILL FORM A POPULAR FRONT WITH THE PCE. HE SAW THE TASK OF THE CENTER LEFT AS THAT OF DENYING THE PSOE SEATS. HE WAS GOING TO WEST GERMANY TO PUSH HIS CASE WITH THE SPD AND CLAIMED THAT THE SPD WAS NOW GIVING SOME SUPPORT TO THE PSOE'S "HISTORICALS," SOMETHING THAT THE GERMAN EMBASSY HERE CATEGORICALLY DENIES.

7. BY DOWN RATING THE MAJOR POLITICAL GROUPS (I.E. ALIANZA POPULAR, CENTRO, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, PSOE, AND PCE) LASUEN PROJECTED 25PERCENT OF THE VOTE FOR THE OUTSIDERS CENTER-LEFT COALITION, A FIGURE THAT GOES FAR BEYOND WHAT ANY OBSERVERS WOULD GIVE THEM. THE OUTSIDERS WOULD BE STRENGTHENED, PERHAPS SIGNIFICANTLY, IF THE REGIME "SOCIAL DEMOCRATS" OF THE MARTIN VILLA/GRUPO PARLAMENTARIO INDEPENDIENTE ILK (I.E., THE SOCIAL-MINDED WING OF LATTER DAY FRANCOISM) DECIDED TO SIGN ON. HOWEVER, INSPITE OF OBVIOUS
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POLITICAL AFFINITIES, THE INDICATION ARE THAT THESE REGIME ELEMENTS WILL FIND ALLIANCE WITHIN THE CENTRO MORE PROFITABLE POLITICALLY.

8. LASUEN, LIKE SO MANY OTHERS, WISHES TO MAKE A PILGRIMAGE TO THE U.S., PERHAPS IN MARCH, TO PUSH HIS VERSION OF WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN IN SPAIN. HE HAS, AS HE SAYS, CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS, BUT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME HELP FROM THE DEPARTMENT WITH APPOINTMENTS. WE TOLD HIM WE WOULD BE GLAD TO BE OF APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE BUT MADE CLEAR THAT WE WOULD DO THIS FOR ANY RESPECTABLE POLITICAL GROUP AND WOULD PLAY NO FAVORITES. STABLER

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